

Grade 10 Reading Assessment Readers' Responses
Sunk! Canada's Worst Maritime Disaster

Question # 2 EXEMPLARS

2. One of the many ways to demonstrate understanding of written material is to organize main ideas and supporting details in note form. In the space below, organize the main ideas and supporting details from the selection using a graphic organizer of your choice. Represent your thinking using your own words where appropriate.

Level 1

1

Limited: largely inaccurate and/or incomplete

- Some main ideas
- Some relevant supporting details
- Key information omitted

Limited organization and clarity; unstructured and hard to follow.

The empress sets sail

- It set of for it's cruise on the afternoon of May 28th
- There was plenty of time, but things were starting to happen.

The Storstad Approaches

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Level 2

2

Partial: somewhat accurate

- Most main ideas
- Some relevant supporting details
- Too much or too little information

Some organization and clarity; generally easy to follow.

Main Idea

- There was a tragedy of the Empress of Ireland and the Storstad.

The story is not well known.

Supporting Evidence

- It took place on the St Lawrence River
- It happened in Canada
- Set sail on May 28th, 1914
- It was foggy out and the ships could not see each other

Level 3

3

Considerable; generally accurate and complete

- Most main ideas
- Most relevant supporting details
- Appropriate amount of information (may be synthesized)

Considerable organization and clarity; structured and easy to follow.

The Disaster of the Empress of Ireland

- The Empress of Ireland Set sail on May 28th, 1914 and the disaster was on May 29th, 1914
- Where were the ships travelling?
 - the ship was travelling from Quebec City to Liverpool
 - the Storstad was travelling from Nova Scotia to Montreal
- The incident took 14 minutes and the ship sank 40 metres
- What happened after they collided?
 - 1013 people on the Empress of Ireland died (1471 people were on the ship)
 - Those who survived went on life boats and got away from quickly
 - water rushed onto the Empress of Ireland and knocked out the power
- Collided with the Storstad
 - both ships were approaching each other and the heavy fog made it impossible to see
 - they were on the St. Lawrence River when they collided
 - the bow of the Storstad cut through the hull of the Empress of Ireland

Level 4

4

Thorough: accurate and comprehensive

- All main ideas
- Precise, well-chosen supporting details
- Effective amount of information (often synthesized)

High degree of organization and clarity; highly effective

Sunk

- 4 Lost and Forgotten**
 - The story did not remain public for long
 - 2 months later WW2 began
 - it is still the worst maritime disaster in Canada's history.
 - people forgot the tragedy
 - this was different from the story of the Titanic.
- 1 The Empress Sets Sail**
 - Set sail on May 28th
 - Captain Henry Kendall
 - at 1:30 am on May 29th the ship dropped off its river pilot
 - they saw another ship approaching but were not really concerned. It was 13 km up river. They thought they would have time to cross its path
- 3 Collision**
 - Storstad sliced through the hull of the Empress
 - Empress quickly rolled on its side for a few minutes then sank
 - tragedy took only 14 minutes
 - 1012 out of 1471 people on Empress died
- 2 The Storstad Approaches**
 - First mate Alfred Toftenes was steering the ship
 - he saw the Empress heading across his ship's path
 - then he claims he saw the Empress change course
 - at this time a thick fog moved in and ships lost sight of one another